



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Petersburg National Battlefield News Release

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National Parks and Other Federal Recreation Areas Now Offer Free Annual Pass to Active Military Personnel and Their Dependents

PETERSBURG, Va – Beginning on Armed Forces Day, May 19, 2012 active military personnel and their dependents can acquire an annual pass that will allow them entrance into National Parks, National Forests, U.S. Fish and Wildlife sites and Bureau of Land Management offices and visitor centers. The pass will be valid for one year from the month of issuance and can be obtained at most fee area sites.

The initiative was announced May 15 during a ceremony at Colonial National Historical Park in Yorktown, Virginia where Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Director of the National Park Service Jonathan B. Jarvis and Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) Jo-Ellen Darcy distributed the first passes to one member from each of the military's five branches.

“Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to our service men and women who make great sacrifices and put their lives on the lines to protect our country and preserve our freedom.” Secretary Salazar said. “In recognition of their contributions and service, we are putting out a welcome mat for these brave men and women and their families at America’s most beautiful and storied sites.”

To qualify for the Annual Pass-Military, the military member must present the Department of Defense Military ID (CAC Card) which reads Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, or National Guard. The ID card must state “Geneva Conventions Identification Card”. Anything else will not qualify.

In order to qualify as a dependent, a Department of Defense ID (DD Form 1173) is needed and is the only ID which will be accepted from dependents.

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About Federal Passes

There are a number of passes available to the American public to encourage visitation to the agencies listed above. American citizens or permanent residents, 62 or older qualify to purchase an Interagency Senior Pass for \$10 which is a lifetime pass allowing entrance into Federal Fee areas. An Interagency Access Pass is a free, lifetime pass available to American citizens or permanent residents with a permanent disability. To find out more about the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Program log onto <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm>.

Petersburg National Battlefield was created in order to commemorate the campaign and siege and defense of Petersburg, Virginia, in 1864 and 1865. The park staff is committed to preserving and protecting the historical, cultural, and natural resources within the park in a manner that will provide interpretation, education, and enjoyment for the visitors. Park Visitor Centers, located in Petersburg, Hopewell, and Dinwiddie County are each open from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The fee to enter the park is \$5 per vehicle, however the Petersburg National Battlefield annual pass and federal recreation passes are also honored. For more information about events at Petersburg National Battlefield, visit our website at www.nps.gov/pete, become a fan on our Facebook page, or follow us on Twitter @PetersburgNPS.